

Key members of [Afghanistan's](#) government met Thursday to discuss foreign policy and the challenges they face, but this wasn't a parliamentary proceeding.

CBS 2's Mai Martinez reports that members of the Afghan parliament went to [Adlai E. Stevenson High School](#) in [Lincolnshire](#) and gave students a first-hand view of Afghanistan.

The assembly was one of several stops on a two-week visit to the U.S. for the delegation, which includes eight members of Afghanistan's parliament.

"This group is going to see a U.S. high school," said [U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk](#), (R-Ill.). "They are going to visit with a village board, they are going to see the [Lake County](#) government, and they are going to visit the Bahai Temple, a symbol of religious tolerance in our community."

Rep. Kirk hopes the visit will help the leaders see what they need to do to secure their country's democratic future. Members of the delegation say they appreciate the first-hand look at how a democratic nation works.

While at Stevenson, the delegation answered questions from students, including tough ones like when Afghanistan will be able to stand on its own.

The chairman of Afghanistan's defense committee said that could be a while because their army is not capable of securing the country against terrorism without the help of coalition forces.

"Without security, we will have nothing," Defense Committee Chairman [Noorulhaq Olomi](#) said. "No school, no job, no life."

Students said they appreciated the honesty of the answers they received from the delegation.

"What I learned the most, and what the Afghani leaders emphasized the most, is how grateful they are and how much they need us over there still," said senior Adam Didech.

"In order to help them, we need to be there until they are able to support themselves," added senior Abby Phillips.

Members of the delegation say they learned a lot about democracy and compassion from the students at Stevenson

It's something they hope they can teach their own students, who after all, are the future of Afghanistan.